

**REMARKS**

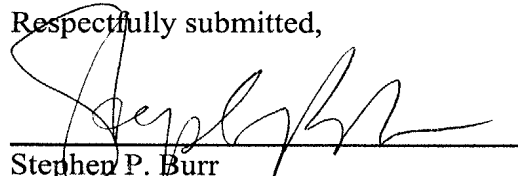
This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to amend the specification to indicate its relationship to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/524,042, filed March 13, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/204,702, filed May 16, 2000.

Priority was claimed to each of these earlier filed applications on the Application Transmittal sheet filed September 28, 2000, and in the Declaration filed January 12, 2001.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Stephen P. Burr  
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December 10, 2001  
Date

SPB/eav

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